

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re : Akira Suzuki  
Japanese Application No. : 2000-214487  
Priority Date : July 14, 2000  
FOR : COOKING UTENSIL

Lowell, Massachusetts  
July 11, 2001

EXPRESS MAIL NO. EF 374 418 849 US

Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

In the Claims

Please amend Claims 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 as follows:

4. (Amended) A cooking utensil as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 3] claim 1, wherein the execution time is defined as a time when a cumulative value of the number of times of the operation of the heating means has reached a predetermined standard number of times.

5. (Amended) A cooking utensil as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 4] claim 1, wherein the execution time can be set individually for each maintenance item.

6. (Amended) A cooking utensil as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 5] claim 1, wherein the set execution time can be arbitrarily changed.

7. (Amended) A cooking utensil as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 6] claim 1, wherein, after informing the execution time, said information is automatically called off by performing the corresponding maintenance work.

8. (Amended) A cooking utensil as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 7] claim 1, wherein, after the information has been called off, a next execution time can be automatically set on the same cycle condition.

9. (Amended) A cooking utensil as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 8] claim 1, wherein the informing means displays a predetermined sign on an operating panel for the heating means.

Please add new Claims 11 to 37 as follows:

11. A cooking utensil as claimed in claim 2, wherein the execution time is defined as a time when a cumulative value of the number of times of the operation of the heating means has reached a predetermined standard number of times.

12. A cooking utensil as claimed in claim 3, wherein the execution time is defined as a time when a cumulative value of the number of times of the operation of the heating means has reached a predetermined standard number of times.

13. A cooking utensil as claimed in claim 2, wherein the execution time can be set individually for each maintenance item.

14. A cooking utensil as claimed in claim 3, wherein the execution time can be set individually for each maintenance item.

15. A cooking utensil as claimed in claim 4, wherein the execution time can be set individually for each maintenance item.

16. A cooking utensil as claimed in claim 2, wherein the set execution time can be arbitrarily changed.

17. A cooking utensil as claimed in claim 3, wherein the set execution time can be arbitrarily changed.

18. A cooking utensil as claimed in claim 4, wherein the set execution time can be arbitrarily changed.

19. A cooking utensil as claimed in claim 5, wherein the set execution time can be arbitrarily changed.

20. A cooking utensil as claimed in claim 2, wherein, after informing the execution time, said information is automatically called off by performing the corresponding maintenance work.

21. A cooking utensil as claimed in claim 3, wherein, after informing the execution time, said information is automatically called off by performing the corresponding maintenance work.

22. A cooking utensil as claimed in claim 4, wherein, after informing the execution time, said information is automatically called off by performing the corresponding maintenance work.

23. A cooking utensil as claimed in claim 5, wherein, after informing the execution time, said information is automatically called off by performing the corresponding maintenance work.

24. A cooking utensil as claimed in claim 6, wherein, after informing the execution time, said information is automatically called off by performing the corresponding maintenance work.

25. A cooking utensil as claimed in claim 2, wherein, after the information has been called off, a next execution time can be automatically set on the same cycle condition.

26. A cooking utensil as claimed in claim 3, wherein, after the information has been called off, a next execution time can be automatically set on the same cycle condition.

27. A cooking utensil as claimed in claim 4, wherein, after the information has been called off, a next execution time can be automatically set on the same cycle condition.

28. A cooking utensil as claimed in claim 5, wherein, after the information has been called off, a next execution time can be automatically set on the same cycle condition.

29. A cooking utensil as claimed in claim 6, wherein, after the information has been called off, a next execution time can be automatically set on the same cycle condition.

30. A cooking utensil as claimed in claim 7, wherein, after the information has been called off, a next execution time can be automatically set on the same cycle condition.

31. A cooking utensil as claimed in claim 2, wherein the informing means displays a predetermined sign on an operating panel for the heating means.

32. A cooking utensil as claimed in claim 3, wherein the informing means displays a predetermined sign on an operating panel for the heating means.

33. A cooking utensil as claimed in claim 4, wherein the informing means displays a predetermined sign on an operating panel for the heating means.

34. A cooking utensil as claimed in claim 5, wherein the informing means displays a predetermined sign on an operating panel for the heating means.

35. A cooking utensil as claimed in claim 6, wherein the informing means displays a predetermined sign on an operating panel for the heating means.

36. A cooking utensil as claimed in claim 7, wherein the informing means displays a predetermined sign on an operating panel for the heating means.

37. A cooking utensil as claimed in claim 8, wherein the informing means displays a predetermined sign on an operating panel for the heating means.

#### REMARKS

Applicant is amending Claims 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9, and adding new Claims 11-37 to avoid multiple dependent claims and to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as his invention.

Applicant believes that Claims 1-37 are in condition for allowance and request that the foregoing amendment be entered and the case sent to issue.

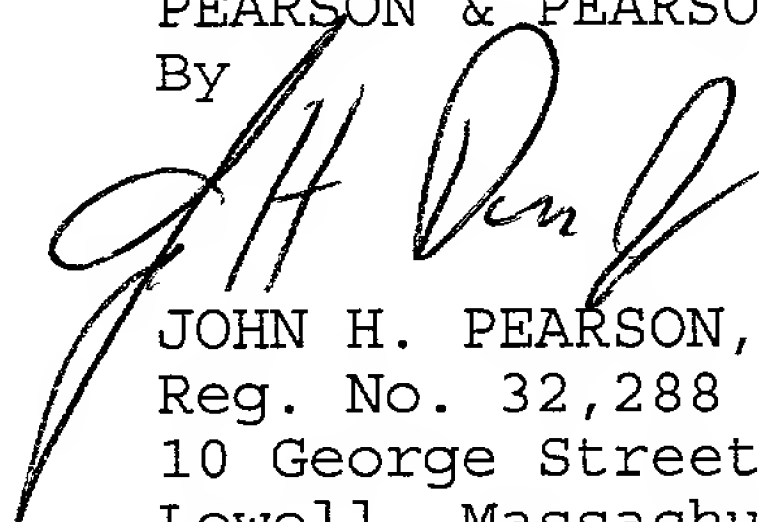
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If there are any questions, we urge the Examiner to call us. Please charge any costs in connection with this document to our Deposit Account No. 16-0875.

Respectfully Submitted,

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